

This Old House

The Big Reveal

Inside our Detroit and Arlington TV houses

26
new kitchen
& bath
products



Family-friendly
kitchens
**Budget
bath ideas**
Build a
butcher block
Buyer's guide:
Smart locks

A beagle dog with brown and white fur is in the foreground, looking up and to the left. In the background, a white propane delivery truck is parked on a grassy lawn. The truck has "PROUDLY PROPANE" written on its side. The scene is set outdoors on a sunny day with a clear blue sky and some trees in the distance.

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MODERN FAMILY

By Kit K. Thompson
for TheAtlantic.com



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BUILD IT

on the cover



Cover Photography
by JEFFREY B. BROWN
Styling by ELIZABETH BROWN



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Reader mail MAY 2017



OUR INBOX OVERFLOWED with readers' enthusiastic responses to our January/February 2017 cover story. Many shared with us how an education in the trades—whether gained in school, through a union or an apprenticeship, or from learning by doing—changed their lives. Read these, and add your voice, at thisoldhouse.com/GenNext-forum.

Powerful words

I was great to see some articles about the scholarship programs for young men and young women in the trades ("Generations Next," Jan./Feb. 2017), and I appreciate that half of the people featured were women. But in language reviews and the cover story, "We're looking for the next generation of skilled craftsmen." Please, no more use of the term to exclude women and women. It's easy to find other words that do not present all of us, so please use them.

—JOAN HERSH VILE, MAIL

Small-scale solution

Since we lost our home to a record wildfire, my husband, Mike, and I were thinking about what to do. I wasn't sure if a "tiny house"—enough for two people, and a dog or two, with a lot of tools—could work, but when I picked up my latest *The Old House*, there it was: in Cathy Scott's "reclaimed" cottage ("Staking It or Claiming It," Jan./Feb. 2017). The words, the size, even the property! Now I can get down to getting it done.

—SUE THOMPSON, SATUMBERG, TN

A fresh bp

Another article for making a feature square easier to read (*Neuro's Trivia of the Trade*, Jan./Feb. 2017). I like the simple and light and the square to remove any road. Can't wait to go paint, let

that day, the sun will be white. The water will be white, but the water will stay white.

—CELESTINE COVERLEY, IN

Their old house

After reading "Moving On" (Jan./Feb. 2017), I realized how fortunate we are. The people who bought our house, where our children grew up, have kept it just as it was. Everything we added—the new front, the maple we planted outside, the front porch—was in. We couldn't have asked for better successors.

—SUSAN ROTT, SOLAMID, CA

Correction

4 The DuPont Corbin Energy 7710 Industrial Lath Style Sink included in Top 100 Best New Home Products (Nov./Dec. 2016, page 82) was never manufactured for sale. The information given at the time of publication and in answer to subsequent reader requests, was provided to us by the company. We regret the error.

How to reach us

Send the editor a letter to 100_letters@thisoldhouse.com or write to:
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Stamford, CT 06302

Include your business address and phone number. Put it in letters in which you'd like to be published.

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How Safe Is Your Home Wiring?

Your home and family may be vulnerable to easily preventable dangers. Read on for ways to protect them.



An Ounce of Prevention

More than half of the 28,000 electrical home fires and injury TCs of the AIEE electrocutions that occur in the U.S. every year could have been prevented with inexpensive DIY handy safety devices. And while these devices may look similar, the ground fault and arc fault dangers they prevent—and functions they perform—are vastly different. Here's why you need the protection of both.

The Ground Fault/Arc Fault Difference

Ground faults occur when electricity escapes from damaged wire or poorly insulated wires and takes a short to the ground. If your body provides the path to that ground, you could be electrocuted. Arc faults happen when electricity crosses a gap between damaged wiring such as loose, corroded, overloaded connections in walls, appliances, and cords. The resulting high intensity heat can ignite surrounding materials, including flooring and insulation. GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) and AFCI (Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter) outlets detect these faults and instantly break the connection, reducing the risk of electric shock and fires.

Keeping Up With Codes

The National Electrical Code (NEC) has long mandated GFCI outlets to be installed in kitchens, bathrooms, garages, outdoors and other damp locations. More recent code changes require AFCIs in living spaces such as bedrooms and living rooms. In 2004 the NEC introduced additional AFCI requirements for kitchens and laundry rooms, so if you are remodeling or building new, you'll need to have both in place. If you need to upgrade, Leviton's SmartLock Pro Dual Function AFCI/GFCI outlet offers shock and fire protection more device and can be used to satisfy NEC requirements for modifications/retrofits, replacement receptacles, and new installations/new construction.

Why Choose an AFCI/GFCI Outlet Instead of an AFCI/GFCI Circuit Breaker?

AFCI/GFCI dual function outlets are a more cost-effective option that works with any type of wiring and can be reset by simply pressing a button on the face of the device, eliminating the need for a trip to the breaker panel.

ADVERTISEMENT

What Goes Where?

Now that you know the difference between the devices, here's where they should be installed in your home:



Living areas such as bedrooms, hallways and laundry rooms to help protect your home from electrical fires.



Near water sources, such as bathrooms, basements, garages, and near pools and spas to help protect you from electrocution.



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Edited by Deborah Ashby

INSIDE

DECK FIXES

LAZY GARDENER'S CHECKLIST

GIFTABLE PLANTS

MORE



Graphic gallery wall

Take a look at the way this staircase display turns dead space into a focal point. A restrained black-and-white palette unifies the whimsical assortment of artwork. Natural wood and black frames in various shapes and sizes spread out in a tight formation from one central large piece. The end result is a colorful display that looks thought-out, rather than thrown together.

TUNE IN FOR THE HOW-TO →



GALLERY HOW-TO

Move the end space you want to fill, then move to the floor, arranging frames in the same size space. Call you find a lay-out you like. On the wall, hang the largest piece in its center-eye level. Fit other frames around the first per year layout, the floor or the other wall. Be low, a few key looks to help. —SILVIA LACINA



Hands-free level

Get any ground surface above the for. Or to level the surface, a level will show you the \$20. cylindric.com



Black ladder

Turn up the frame's hanging hardware on the best (your hands, along level). Use one of 10 tools when you have. Should go \$12. hugoburton.com

Adhesive hangers

Can't connect? No nails, no problem. Some of the best hangers for your \$4.99 for a 10-pack. www.comet.com

All hands on deck

Now that winter is over, your wood deck undoubtedly needs a little TLC—or maybe a lot. We asked Mark Kneib of the USDA's Forest Products Lab how to proceed:

Sweep and scrub. Clear away debris caught between boards. Protect siding and plantings with plastic sheeting. Then use a garden sprayer to apply a deck cleaner with oxygen bleach (sodium percarbonate). Scrub off mold and stains, rinse.

Check the finish. If water beads for 10 minutes, you're done. If the water is absorbed in certain areas, brush on a finish that matches what is there. Make sure to wipe up glossy spots where the new finish doesn't penetrate. You might find that you don't need to coat the entire deck; over time, touch-ups will dull and blend in.

Starting from scratch? Look for a finish that penetrates the wood, oil-based products that best. If finish has that, make sure it's like solid stains and varnishes, even a dry coat. Then decide how much color you want. Clear sealers are easiest to apply but offer no UV protection. Tinted sealers contain transparent pigments that block UV rays and let the wood grain show. Semi-transparent stains have more of the grain, protect against UV rays, and offer the widest range of colors. —THOMAS KANE



Lazy Gardener's Checklist

Even the most dedicated gardener welcomes a few strategies—like these—that save time and effort.

✓ **Retire your tillers.** Turning over the top few inches of soil destroys the microsystem created by beneficial bacteria. Instead, judiciously tiller plantings, then top dress with a layer of compost.

✓ **Create a buddy system.** Plants compete for resources, so if you put incompatible companions together, you may start the growth of one of them. Bell peppers can shade the other way around. Top them between near the soil as for long-term with flowering marigolds, and you protect the fruits from worms. Pay friends not to: to give plants a built-in boost.

✓ **Feed while watering.** Attach a siphon miter (15-20 inches) to the end of your garden hose and siphon. Then dunk the siphon into a bucket of seaweed-based liquid fertilizer. The siphon draws the plant food into the water stream while you irrigate with a sprinkler or a soaker hose.

✓ **Cut down on tool care.** For a quick way to load all caked dirt and rust, fill an old planter or a 5-gallon bucket with sand and about 500s of mineral oil. Dunk the tools in the mix to clear clogging. If there's slushy sludge, pour out and toss the blade-side down in the dry sand. —S.T.

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A bouquet is great on Mother's Day, but one of these beauties can travel right from your strapping pot to the garden, where it'll bloom all summer long—and flower again for years...>>>



Fight metal fatigue

Even metal patio furniture with the most durable factory-applied paint can chip or show wear over time. Before reaching for your spray gun, figure out whether your furniture is steel or aluminum (it's easy—a magnet won't stick to the latter). Then make it look new again in five simple steps.

1. Check for corrosion. Look for signs of oxidation. Tackle rust spots on steel with a wire brush and 200-grit sandpaper. Taking care to avoid scratching surrounding paint. Wash or treat oxidized aluminum with a solution of 4 ounces of vinegar to 1 gallon of water.

2. Sand bare spots. Feather chipped edges with 400-grit sandpaper.

3. Clean all surfaces. Wash with dish soap and water to help paint adhere. Then rinse. Dry steel immediately with a towel. Use a cloth to keep rust at bay.

4. Prime it. Oxidized steel needs a zinc- or oil-based primer formulated for metal. For aluminum, use a special water-based acrylic primer with zinc. Reapply the primer whenever before you start with some if you don't lay out within an hour, you have to wait 48 hours before applying a top coat.

5. Paint it. Exterior-grade paint is available in enamel spray or brush-on formulas. Spray painting should be done outside. As you spray, hold the can upright, no closer than 10 inches from the surface, and keep it moving constantly. Also shake the can often to mix the fine, consistent mist. —T.E.



Spray-can upgrade

Editor's Choice: Spray for better with this outdoor aluminum furniture. And don't forget to use a good primer. —T.E.



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Zillow

Heal that scratched cooktop

Gleaming stainless steel remains the No. 1 pick for kitchen appliances. But if you love to cook, you're going to get scratches. DIY fans flirt around the Internet, but we got the best results with the Scratch & Go! Homeowner Kit (\$50, resinonlyoursellproducts.com). Note that it works on brushed-unsanded stainless steel only. Gang with the grain. (1) Hit scratches with the finger pad. (2) Apply oxidant solution with a handheld buffing tool, and (3) polish with a microfiber cloth. Then vent to replace all your rough-bottomed skillets.



Clever vac attachments

Your home's winter-weary nooks and crannies could use a little attention, even those outside. Think of this as a chance to deploy one of the latest specialty vacuum attachments—checking first to make sure it's compatible with your machine.



A > Sneaks into gutters. Ridged wet-vac Gutter Cleaning Kit can blow away or suck up leaves from the safety of terra firma and an 11-foot telescopic tube that have decayed to wet clumps. \$30, homedepot.com

B > Closes-out cracks. Use the angled nozzle to annihilate the Devil's claws between your car seats. The Ridged ClawCar Nozzle, like the gutter cleaner, has a 21½-inch tubing. \$9.99, homedepot.com

C > Removes your burrito. The Vacuum Upholstery Tool has slide-on bristles to fit can double as a duster. \$13, vacuumcleanermarket.com

D > Soaks under the fridge. Long and skinny and bendable (yep). The Flexible 24-inch Crevice Tool is in sander appliances and can even angle in under the dryer lint trap. Like the upholstery tool, it has a 34-inch tubing. \$18, vacuumcleanermarket.com



Any advice for using matte-black finishes?



Kristina Corbin, an interior designer in Manchester by the Sea, MA, likes the timeless appeal and dramatic contrast of matte black. Her strategy for making it work:

START WITH THE LIGHTING AND PLUMBING FIXTURES. It's always good to keep these in the same color family, and it pays to choose them early. The pairing shown in the bath above helps drive the rest of the scheme.

RELAXES BLACK WITH NEUTRALS AND NATURALS. Draped-back whites and unpainted wood allow matte black finishes to stand out, while both even extend the tile via quartz wall with a narrow white bullnose.

WAVE IN SUBTLE CONTRASTS. Think about incorporating different textures and shapes. Here, the matte black faucet plays off leatherycoramic tile and a sleek, shiny quartz vanitytop.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE HOME DEPOT; STYLING: JEFFREY M. HARRIS; HAIR: JEFFREY M. HARRIS; MAKEUP: JEFFREY M. HARRIS

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Creating a classic

Taking advantage of high ceilings and lots of natural light, a couple update their kitschy '80s kitchen with a timeless new design

BY KATELIN HILL • PHOTOGRAPHS BY STACEY BRANFORD

LIVE IN A HOUSE for a while and things that first seemed fine can start to grate. Dee and Gail Sooner spent a decade in their 1960s split-level in Toronto before deciding that their dysfunctional country-style kitchen—with its odd curved island that hemmed in the chef—had to go. “I wanted a space with better flow,” Gail says, “and one that would inspire me to cook.”

Enter designer Laura Stern, who ditched the awkward island and a short wall of cabinetry in favor of a dark wood centerpiece island with a second sink, a microwave for snacking granola, and seating for three. Just above it, three dramatic pendant lights accentuate the sloped ceiling, which Stern gave a painted treatment. Recessed-panel white cabinets ring the room, and a handmade-style backsplash adds a lively blue hue.

With two walls now open and a sophisticated kitchen designed to be seen from all angles, the couple couldn't be happier. Gail says, “I can't tell you how often my husband says he loves this house, and he never said that before!”



BEFORE The kitchen had a country vibe and a curved island that didn't suit the homeowners' taste.

AFTER Custom touches like a painted ceiling, dramatic lighting, and two islands take the room from kitschy to classic. Cabinetry, backsplash, and pendant lights Redesign the space.



BEFORE

To highlight the dramatic ceiling, the designer used the overhead crown molding and pulled to draw the eye up. *Front: Benjamin Moore's Ardenne Powder*

Oil-rubbed bronze pulls echo the area's look provided by the counter, which is made with stone fillings and stainless steel appliances makes for a modern mix. *Photo: Lee Kibbey*



The pattern cabinet was hand-painted rather than sprayed. Inside, textured warmth is built in with cubby shelving and up to 10 bottles. *Cabinet: Bloomington Fine Cabinetry*



The dark-stained oak island is a perfect contrast to the white cabinetry. A prep work island right above is built-in to the island. It is handy for holding random stuff like the griddle or for chopping vegetables. *Photo: Chris Smith Photography and Interiors - Kibbey*

BREAK ISLANDS
Check out this design idea for the kitchen island in this kitchen.



homeowner tip *SAR RUTHER, TORONTO*
"Plan out what you're going to put in every cabinet early in the design process, so you know it will work for your needs down the road."

before

An awkward island cut the kitchen off from the rest of the open-plan main floor.



after

Opening up a second wall and replacing and reorienting the island improve traffic flow.

1 Put in proper venting for even range hood and better cabinets that line up with the tops of the windows.

2 Relocated the island and took down the wall behind it to open up the space.



3 Added a tall pantry cabinet next to the relocated island, widening the footprint of the kitchen's island.

4 Built a new center island with a stainless steel prep sink for additional workspace plus casual seating.

5 Covered up a new breakfast nook with a panel design so it looks like a traditional cabinet.

Properly venting the new two-burner range required all new ductwork, but the outcome results in dramatic focal point in the room and showcased a large mouth of back uplink. *Range: KitchenAid*



Recessed built-in great accessories for the island in the handmade. *Recessed built-in: The KitchenAid*

26 cool new finds

From a luxury soaker to a mini stand mixer, here are some standouts from the annual kitchen and bath show, plus a few discoveries of our own.

BY DEBORAH E. LUTHER AND NICOLE J. SPINALE, PH.D.

01 FRESH FIXTURE

A sculptural tapestry and bath brush, *Bath Brush* is a felt piece in the profile of a lav faucet with traditional crosshandles. *Kulture's Script Desk Mount Bath Faucet* \$12,000 kulture.com



02 ELEGANT SOAKER

Free-standing tubs work in period-style and contemporary bathrooms. This organic Bam 65 inches long, 22 inches high and crafted from a single solid resin piece, has this oval and an eye-catching shape. Kamber & Co. Tub, 36.535, kamber.com



04. BACTERIAL CHARM

Warm-up the floor with 8-inch square tile in perfumes that evoke vintage content versions while offering the ease of porcelain. Arizona Tile's Concrete Rebel, \$1.35 each, arizonatile.com



OS WARM TOUCH

The angular shape of these knobs and pulls—inspired by industrial I-beams—contrasts with their luxurious wrought-copper finish. Sized from 1 to 10 1/2 inches, they are a good fit for kitchen and bathroom. **DeWitt Ander** 2 Avenue Colorado, Suite 211
DeWittAnder.com

Notes: Manufacturers' literature provided suggested retail per case. SouthShore.com SouthShore.com Price Difference from the base



06 BUDGET BUDGET

Squats in this season are a regulated toilet and you'll have front and back cleansing sounds with adjustable water temperature and pressure. For \$500 more, you get a heated seat, water that pushes or oscillates hot or even built-in night light. The sweet plug-in seat with simple plumbing fix, lap the intake pipe. Aolier x3 080 3209 and C3 055 5889 Aolier.com

07 GRAY THREE WAYS

Cabinets with a seriously weathered look take the edge off their appearance and grumpy countertops. The finishes on this old collection are: frost top, Fango, Turquoise and Semole. Turquoise is a stain; the other two are paint. Watson's Cabinet & Plywood, Inc., 1000 S. 10th St., Portland, Ore. 97204.

DB PREPPED SINK

The deep-end tank has one side fitted with 28 gauge stainless steel and corners welded by TIG welding techniques, preventing the counter-top [and drill bit] from scratching. Alloy is Corrosion-Resistant Steel with Water Seal. DDT's alloy can:

白帶 胃氣痛 白帶下 胃氣痛

A compact front loader that shifts from washing to drying, while you read a book? Think of how this vanishing 2 in 1 could save space—and your back. *Power 2-in-1 Drying Front Load Washer-Dryer Combo*. \$1,200. Astellawasher.com

10. FASTER CLEANUP

An adjustable second rack and a removable third tray allow an easy fit for tall pots and serving pieces. A 30 minute automatic on/off timer keeps the food warm and off the table. Leave it on during dinner, it's a great toe. *Electrolux's Convector with Perfect Dry \$1,999*
electroluxappliances.com

11 FAIR STONE

Forget happy meals: These porcelain dolls, nearly 12 feet long each, are these businesses' most ethically mined petitemade Stone Burlington shows. From Stone from \$17 per sq ft. www.stonefrom.com

Charming bath for \$196

A basic washroom gets some much-needed personality with easy shiplap-style walls and rustic accessories. **BY KATELIN HILL**



BEFORE While building her 3-year-old son's room, the homeowner discovered ways to give her basic bathroom some character.

AFTER Simple wallpapering, floating shelves, shiplap-style hardware, and lots of white paint better reflect the home's farmhouse aesthetic.



MORE IDEAS Find inspiration for your own redo on our new redo website: RedoItYourself.com/ bath-updates

• **INEXPENSIVE BUILDER-GRADE** fixtures rarely stand the test of time. When Angela Jensen moved into her 1993 Prius, Colorado, home, her four-bath bath looked outdated and worn. To add some life to the space, Angela started by painting the walls and vanity, then used a special paint to give the lacinate vanity top a granite look. Inspired by shiplap walls found in old Greenhouses, she attached horizontal V-groove planks halfway up the walls, capping them off with MDF trim. Before adding new hardware molding, Angela glued down the ripped-down flooring and covered

it with adhesive-backed driftwood-look vinyl planks, which she chose for their water resistance and easy installation. Perforating her makeshift scrap wood to use, she finished the floating shelves, built a set of floating shelves, and replaced the old metal towel rack with one she crafted herself, then painted them all white. A new shower curtain covers the sliding doors and adds some color, a wire basket is a stylish storage house. Angela is thrilled with how much light, brightness, and clean space she has in her bath. "The farmhouse elements add a cozy, inviting feeling," she says. "It's a completely new space." ■

THE PROJECT TALLY

Crafted shiplap-style wall paneling using V-groove planks from the home center capped with MDF trim, then added new baseboards — **\$50**

Painted walls with a quart of light gray and used a shower cap of white on the plumbing and vanity — **\$10**

Updated the vanity with coordinate paint to make its metal grates that were bought (but never used) for the kitchen renovation — **\$0**

Covered old short flooring with vinyl planks — **\$20**

Built floating shelves and towel rack from scraps of pine plywood, sanded, then had metal on hand, plus other stone wood knobs she found on sale — **\$32**

Added a new shower curtain and rod, brushed nickel beyond car pulls, and metal accents, including a wire basket and a candle lantern — **\$64**

TOTAL \$196

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Chip Gaines
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SEKTION kitchen with VÖXTORP light beige high-gloss cabinet fronts, VÖXTORP island (28 1/2" x 10"), drawer fronts and VÖXTORP soft closing drawers. VÖXTORP 30" x 18" stainless steel island with VÖXTORP stainless steel legs. Price to include all the things you'll need to make it your own: VÖXTORP 30" x 18" stainless steel island with VÖXTORP 30" x 18" stainless steel legs, VÖXTORP 30" x 18" stainless steel island with VÖXTORP 30" x 18" stainless steel legs, VÖXTORP 30" x 18" stainless steel island with VÖXTORP 30" x 18" stainless steel legs.



Secrets to better BBQ

Hubs, sauces, relishes, and bastes are essential additions that give grilled food its character, personality, and soul. BY STEVEN RAICHLEN • PHOTOGRAPHS BY MATTHEW BIRSON

ANYONE CAN GRILL a steak or make a burger. But cooking great barbecue—the ones I use for any sort of food cooked with low fire—involves not just an intimate knowledge of fire and fire control but also considerable expertise in saucing, rubs, marinades, bastes, glazes, and more.

In a way, the process is similar to building a house. The contractor has to know how to select site, dig a foundation, build a frame, do the finishing work, paint and landscape, using the proper tools and construction methods. Building great barbecue also requires the right tools (smokers and grills), the proper methods (smoke and heat control), a solid foundation (the rubs and marinades), good finish work (the bastes and glazes), attractive paint (the barbecue sauce), and pleasing landscaping (the sides, relishes, chutneys, mustard, ketchup, and other condiments that are served in accompaniment). Get these dimensions right, and your barbecue will be very much at home on the plate and on your tongue.

The recipes on the pages ahead showcase some of the flavor-enhancing components of great barbecue. Follow them to the letter, or use them as springboards for your imagination and conscience when to make them your own. Remember, barbecue isn't brain surgery—have fun!

EXCERPTED FROM *Barbecue: The Art of Fire* by Steven Raichlen, author of *Barbecue: The Art of Fire* (Ten Speed Press). Copyright © 2013. Photos by Matthew Birson.



THE RECIPES

Singapore Pork Saté

SERVES 4 AS AN APPETIZER
2 TO 3 AS A LIGHT MAIN COURSE

Saté is enjoyed throughout Southeast Asia. Singapore's version features a fragrant garnet of tomatoes and a beautifully sticky peanut sauce.

- 1 pound boneless pork shoulder, julienned or tenderloin (pork butt) cut into 1/2-inch cubes and tossed in each cube
- 1/2 tablespoon Singapore Saté Rub
- 4/5 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 small sweet onion, peeled
- Quick Peanut Dipping Sauce
- Thai Cucumber Relish

YOU'LL ALSO NEED

- 6-to-8-inch bamboo skewers soaked in water for 30 minutes, then drained

1. Place the pork in a medium bowl, and stir in the Singapore Saté Rub, coating the meat cubes as evenly as possible with the spices. Stir in 2 tablespoons of the oil to coat. Cover and let marinate in the refrigerator for at least 1 hour or overnight.

2. Cut the onion in half lengthwise. Cut each half in quarters and break each quarter into individual segments.

3. Set up a grill for direct grilling, and preheat it to high. Use 10 tablespoons olive oil to brush and oil the grill grate.

4. Skewer the pork cubes and 1/2-inch bamboo skewers, placing a piece of onion between the cubes. Leave half the skewer without meat so you have a handle for holding the saté.

5. Arrange the skewers in the grill, sliding a sheet of aluminum foil or a piece of parchment under the exposed part of the skewers to keep them from charring. Grill, basting with the remaining 2 tablespoons of oil, until the pork is cooking, browned, and cooked through (1 to 2 minutes per side). Let it marinate in oil. Serve with the Peanut Sauce and Cucumber Relish on the side.

SINGAPORE SATÉ RUB

MAKES A GENEROUS 1/2 CUP

- 3 tablespoons light brown sugar (or dark, if that's all you have on hand)
- 2 tablespoons ground coriander
- 1 tablespoon ground cumin
- 1 tablespoon ground turmeric
- 1 tablespoon coarse kosher or sea salt
- 1 tablespoon freshly ground black pepper

Place the sugar, coriander, cumin, turmeric, salt, and pepper in a bowl, mix well, breaking up any lumps in the sugar with your fingertips. Transfer ingredients to a covered container away from heat and light; the rub will keep for several weeks.

QUICK PEANUT DIPPING SAUCE

MAKES ABOUT 3 CUPS (ENOUGH TO SERVE 10 TO 12)

- 1 tomato, peeled, seeded, and sliced
- 2 skewers garlic, peeled and minced
- 2 scallions (white and green parts), minced and minced
- 1 to 3 Thai chiles or jalapeño peppers, seeded and minced (for a spicier sauce, leave the seeds in)
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro leaves
- 1 cup chunky peanut butter
- 1 cup coconut milk (or chicken or vegetable broth, if more is needed)
- 3 tablespoons fish sauce or soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon fish-chili juice
- 1 tablespoon light brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup fresh cilantro, for garnish

Place the tomato, garlic, scallions, chiles, and chopped cilantro in a food processor. Process for a fine paste. Add the peanut butter, coconut milk, fish sauce, lime juice, brown sugar, and black pepper; process to obtain a smooth sauce. Correct the seasoning, adding more fish sauce, lime juice, or brown sugar to taste. The sauce should be salty, tart, and sweet. It should thicken but pourable. If too thick, add a little more coconut milk. Transfer to a bowl or container, and use right away, garnished with cilantro sprigs.

THAI CUCUMBER RELISH

MAKES 1 CUP (S. ENOUGH TO SERVE 4)

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup cold water
- 1/2 cup distilled white vinegar
- 1/2 cup sugar
- Generous 1/2 teaspoon coarse kosher or sea salt
- 1 peeled garlic clove, lightly flattened with the side of a cleaver

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Combine 1/2 cup water, 1/2 cup vinegar, 1/2 cup sugar, and 1/2 teaspoon salt in a small pot.
2. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer until the sugar is dissolved.
3. Add the garlic clove and simmer for 5 minutes.
4. Strain the mixture into a bowl, and discard the garlic.

5. Prepare the dressing. Combine the water, vinegar, sugar, salt, and garlic in a saucepan over high heat, bring to a boil, reduce the heat and simmer until the sugar is dissolved and the mixture is completely dissolved, about 10 minutes. Transfer the mixture to a bowl, let cool to room temperature. Discard the garlic.

6. Peel the cucumber with a vegetable peeler, removing the skin in long, thin strips about 1/4 inch apart, then give you some strips when you cut the cucumber. Cut the cucumber lengthwise in quarters, then crosswise into 1/2-inch slices. Add the cucumber to the cooled dressing. Add the shallot, chile, and cilantro, toss to mix. Just before serving, sprinkle the relish with peanuts. You can serve the relish right away, but it will taste better if you let the flavors blend for 1 hour. Serve it the same day you make it.



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THE RECIPES (CONT'D)

Grilled Striped Bass with Melon-Mint Relish

SERVES 4

Stripes or blues? These are two of the best eating fish on the planet. Like to keep their preparation simple.

- 2 pounds striped bass or bluefish fillets
- Garlic Butter Baste
- Cornish haddock or sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Melon-Mint Relish

YOU'LL ALSO NEED

A grill basket, lightly oiled with vegetable oil

1. Set up grill for direct grilling and preheat to high.
2. Brush the fish on both sides with some of the Garlic Butter Baste. Season the fish on both sides with salt and pepper. Place the fish in the oiled grill basket.
3. Grill the fish until browned on the outside and cooked through (the internal temperature should be about 140°F). 4 to 6 minutes per side. Brush the fish with the remaining butter baste as it cooks.
4. Transfer the fish to a platter or plate. Top with Melon-Mint Relish and enjoy!

GARLIC BUTTER BASTE

MAKES 1 CUP (ENOUGH FOR 1 TO 3 POUNDS OF SEAFOOD OR MEAT)

- 3 tablespoons (2 sticks) salted butter
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground or crushed black pepper (optional)

OPTIONAL FLAVORINGS

- 1/4 cup finely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley or cilantro
- 1 teaspoon sweet, smoked, or hot paprika
- 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1 tablespoon dried basil or oregano
- 1 tablespoon chopped toasted hazelnuts or almonds
- 1 to 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1/4 teaspoon grated lemon zest

Melt the butter in a heavy saucepan over medium heat. Add the garlic and pepper and



with all the optional flavorings (except the lemon juice) if using, and cook until the garlic pieces turn golden but not quite brown (2 minutes). Remove the pan from the heat. Add the lemon juice. If storing, transfer to a jar, cool to room temperature, cover and refrigerate. This baste will keep for at least a week. Reheat to melt the butter before using.

MELON-MINT RELISH

MAKES 4 CUPS (ENOUGH TO SERVE 4 TO 6)

- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice
- 2 tablespoons light brown sugar
- 4 cups diced seeded ripe melons (or small apples or peaches with a melon butter)

- 1 cucumber, peeled, seeded, and cut into 1/2-inch dice
- 1/4 cup finely diced onion
- 2 to 4 jalapeño peppers, seeded and finely chopped (for a spicier relish, leave in the seeds)
- 2 tablespoons finely-chopped candied ginger
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh mint leaves

Combine the lime juice and sugar in a bowl, stir or whisk, until the sugar is dissolved. Add the remaining ingredients, and gently toss to mix. Taste and add more sugar as needed. Serve within a few hours of making.

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THE RECIPES (CONT'D)

The Barbecue Burger

SERVES 4

Here, it's a way to infuse the evocative spice and smoke flavor of true barbecue into conventional fast-cooking burger.

- 2 pounds ground beef (use a really fat mixture of ground chuck and brisket, about 30 percent fat)
- 2 to 3 tablespoons Kansas City Sweet and Smoky Rub, or your favorite barbecue rub
- 4 romaine lettuce leaves (from near the center)
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 4 onion rolls or hamburger buns (soaked in olive oil)
- 2 thick slices tomato
- 4 thick slices of ripe red tomato
- 8 tablespoons Smoked Whiskey Bourbon Barbecue Sauce, or your favorite barbecue sauce

YOU'LL ALSO NEED

- 2½ cups of wood chips, soaked in water, like a cereal

1. Form the ground beef into 4 patties, each about 3½ inches across and ¾ inch thick. Make a slight depression in the center (burgers rise more in the center than on the periphery, so this slight indent will help give you an even ½ inch). Generously season the burgers on both sides with the Kansas City Sweet and Smoky Rub. Let the rub sit in the refrigerator while you light your grill.

2. Set up the grill for direct grilling, and preheat to high. Add the soaked wood chips. Brush and oil the grill plate.

3. Lightly brush the romaine lettuce leaves on both sides with olive oil (about 1 tablespoon). Brush the oil on the rolls or buns with the extra-virgin oil.

4. Arrange the onion rings on the grill grate, and grill until browned, 3 to 4 minutes per side (olive oil is needed to avoid flare-ups).

5. Grill the burgers until cooked to taste (about 4 minutes per side for medium).

6. Grill the lettuce leaves until they are well lightly browned, 30 seconds per side. Toast the rolls or buns, cut sides down.



7. To assemble, place a grilled tomato leaf on the bottom half of each roll or bun. Top with a burger, barbecue sauce, a tomato slice, onion, and more barbecue sauce. Place the other half of the roll or bun on top.

KANSAS CITY SWEET AND SMOKY RUB

MAKES ABOUT 2½ CUPS

- ½ cup browned butter
- ½ cup packed light brown sugar
- ½ cup sweet or smoked paprika
- ½ cup seasoned salt
- ½ cup smoked salt
- ½ cup onion salt
- ½ cup celery salt
- 2 tablespoons freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons pure chili powder (not a chili blend)
- 2 teaspoons mustard powder
- 1 teaspoon poultry seasoning
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- ½ teaspoon ground fennel
- ½ teaspoon ground cayenne pepper

Combine all the ingredients in a bowl, stir or whisk to mix. It makes up the rub, transfer to a jar, cover, and store away from heat and light. The rub will keep for several weeks.

SMOKE WHISKY'S BACON SOURBON BARBECUE SAUCE

MAKES 4 CUPS

- 2 strips bacon, finely sliced
- 2½ cups cider vinegar
- 2½ cups ketchup
- ¼ cup packed light brown sugar
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons smoked pepper flakes
- ½ cup bourbon

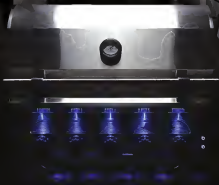
Coarse kosher or sea salt to taste

1. Place the bacon in a heavy nonreactive skillet. Cook until medium heat until the bacon is browned, 5 minutes, stirring with a wooden spoon.

2. Stir in the vinegar and bring to a boil. Then stir in the ketchup, sugar, black pepper, pepper flakes, and bourbon, gradually bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer, uncovered, until thick and rich. Simmer 15 to 20 minutes. Stir in the salt—you'll need quite a bit to offset the acidity of the vinegar. It's not using night sweats, however, to sleep, you'll need to be able to go to bed and not wake up the next morning. The sauce will keep for several weeks.

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Sleep-inducing scheme

Swaths of color in soft shades help make a serene setting even more calming

BY DEBORAH BALDWIN

HEADBOARDS may be traditional, but there are other ways to complement a cozy-looking bed. Here, a headboard of spring green greets the sleep zone, topped by a field of soft beige and capped by an abstract off-white.

Inspiration for the scheme came from the furnishings—organic forms, tree-trunk tables, and a wool rug. “These elements, working together with linen white and organic green, have a fresh and natural vibe,” says Sue Wadden, director of color marketing at Sherwin-Williams.

It’s a tricky project to pull off. Start by priming the walls and ceiling (here, Sherwin-Williams’s Natural Latex and DuraSeal, respectively). Then measure and mark off the wall at waist-height—a line a third of the way up—using a level, a yardstick, and a pencil. Put down painter’s tape above the pencil marks, hatching the edge with a credit card or a plastic putty knife, and roll on the dominant shade (here, Sherwin-Williams’s Lane Hazy).

Go for a natural eggshell finish to give the colors a bit of sheen and make the “headboard” easy to clean. Then fluff the pillows and climb right in. ■



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Crafted to be cozy

Sturdy, functional, and designed for comfort, the Craftsman bungalow telegraphs a down-to-earth style of living

BY PAMELA GUYMERKOFF

YOU CAN SPOT ONE instantly from the curb, with its broad proportions and wide front porch rooted to the ground by tapered square pilars on masonry piers. The low-pitched roof features exposed beams, rafters, and brackets; the facade is a mix of stone or brick, and wood clapboard or shingles. Doors and shutters offer headroom in what is typically a one-and-a-half-to-two-story design. Inside, built-in cabinets or bookcases and chunky woodwork, usually stained rather than painted, divide rooms and flank fireplaces, adding warmth and function.

This is the Craftsman bungalow, first designed by architect and brothers Charles and Henry Greene at the turn of the 20th century, when the two had had it with the exorbitant, factory-made ornamentation of the Victorian period. What had been fancy became bold, what had been formal became comfortable. The Craftsman style held on to its roots, celebrating solid

handmade construction that peeked out from rooflines and anchored interior rooms. The houses spoke to a growing middle class wanting unpretentious family homes. Ultimately, the style blew across the country, landing everywhere—even via mail-order plans, raising colonial barn, often tiny, and indoor plumbing.

With its signature look, the Craftsman bungalow became the iconic American house. Its flowing floor plan, amiable detail, and livable space have kept it a popular choice.

Today, new construction often mimics the style, which peaked after the mid-1930s. But many original houses remain, and critics are delighted across the country. With extra rooms tucked into surprising places, a cozy atmosphere, and an aesthetic that minimizes modern conveniences, doors, and windows, the Craftsman bungalow still has wide appeal. Here, a sample from the spring market

Located in the Bungalow Heaven district of Pasadena, CA, where the Craftsman-style houses have thrived since the 1920s, this four-bedroom 2,025-b-square-foot bungalow has original beams and many 21st-century improvements including newer additions and water pumps. Recently sold for a listed price of \$1,195,000.

• buy this house



FENNVILLE, NC \$264,500

Details: 4 beds, 2 1/2 baths, 2,400 sq. ft., built in 1920

Highlights: Original woodwork and floors, updated kitchen, baths, electrical, double carport lot, detached workshop and 2 car garage
Contact: Kyla Bennett, owner, 404-540-9540



SENOIA, GA \$449,000

Details: 3 beds, 2 baths, 2,107 sq. ft., built in 1927

Highlights: Original wood floors, hardwood walls, heart pine floors, new roof, systems, appliances, open kitchen, 2 car garage, 1 acre lot
Contact: Mike & Helen, Keller Williams Realty, 828-642-8073



POTYALLUP, WA \$265,000

Details: 3 beds, 1 bath, 1,206 sq. ft., built in 1923

Highlights: Original trimwork, floors, porch, central air, unattached studio and basement for expansion
Contact: Jennifer & Tim Trevelyan, owners, 253-468-1727



SHARON, MA \$164,900

Details: 3 beds, 1 1/2 baths, 2,085 sq. ft., built in 1920

Highlights: River rock fireplace, original beamed ceilings, columns, floors, built-ins, 2 new porches, 1.37 acre lot
Contact: Helen Selinger, Coldwell Banker, 781-798-5433



MARLIN, TX \$130,000

Details: 3 beds, 2 1/2 baths, 1,942 sq. ft., built in 1924

Highlights: Original hardwood floors, new kitchen, baths, central air, light box, water filter, new air conditioner, new windows, doors, top coat
Contact: Michael Watkins, MVA Real Estate Group, 817-986-4824



RIVERSIDE, CA \$498,900

Details: 4 beds, 2 1/2 baths, 3,400 sq. ft., built in 1928

Highlights: Original front door, pocket doors, built-in, updated floors, porch, kitchen, updated kitchen, AC electrical, owner 2 car garage
Contact: Tim and April Stalder, RE/MAX Partners, 951-320-6439

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Knock, knock, smart lock

For the last few years, the promise of an Internet-connected door lock has been hard to resist. Now that the kinks are finally being ironed out, is it time to spring for one?

BY NATHANIEL WICE • ILLUSTRATION BY TIAGO GALO

WE'VE BEEN LOOKING for years to recommend a smart lock for your home. The promise since at least 2012 has been a connected front door that unlocks effortlessly when you approach, and even turns on the house lights and adjusts the thermostat. Throw in a doorbell camera while you're at it, so an app can show who's ringing, whether you're halfway across the country or just too lazy to get off the couch.

For all the talk of breezy conveniences, congratulations are in order if you've put off connecting your front door to the Internet. New models are only now making out any shortcoming.

The most reliable keyless tech remains a basic lock such as the Schlage Connect Keypad Deadbolt. The lock works with a key, too, but the idea is that you are a four-digit access code for yourself. Come home and punch in your PIN. The lock can remember up to 19 separate codes (what are any enough to remember or delete, to give temporary access to a worker or a guest).

The Schlage design is also praised largely because of what it doesn't do. A 5-volt battery electronically engages the deadbolt, but—because there is no wireless connection to a home security system or to the Internet—the battery lasts for years. You turn the unlabeled dead bolt manually, but your reward is that you won't have to contend with smartphone bugs or web chat window feigning when trying to work the front door that maybe you need to reset the Wi-Fi. You have keyless convenience without any software or networking hassles.

Warning, you say. Living on the gateway to 2017. I want to hear my watch. "Yes, unlock the front door!"

Apple fans who want to play with the company's vision of the connected home should look at the latest generation of the



August Smart Lock, which is enabled for Apple HomeKit. The August terms your smartphone into a virtual key, with an app to create more virtual keys, and an emergency key to crack when they're used.

August works with your existing dead bolt, replacing the outside plate and lever bar leaving the outside unharmed. This is a relief compared with the not-so-dark look of the Schlage keypad, plus it's a nice security feature to have the lockable arms hidden from plain view on the exterior. Installation takes just about 15 minutes with a screwdriver, and the lock access satisfactorily into place with two wing bolts that are easy to undo if you want to move the August to another door in the future. (Check

august.com to confirm your dead bolt is compatible.) You'll have to judge the August's aluminum indicators for yourself—it has four AA batteries inside along with a sensor to turn and calibrate the dead bolt—but we find the industrial design, by co-founder Yoni Ruben, to be handsome, like an overcast men's watch.

The August communicates wirelessly over Bluetooth to most by phones and can be set to lock and unlock automatically as you come and go. To remotely control the August over the Internet, you add the separate August Connect Wi-Fi Bridge (an Apple TV can also play this role). An optional keypad allows you to add entrance codes for guests who may not want to bother with the August app—



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think kids who don't have smartphones yet—and a doorbell camera, both of which also work with the slick app. You can receive motion-triggered video recordings or get real-time notifications of activity. August is also compatible with Amazon's Alexa and Google's Nest. Of course, with voice control come new quandaries. As of last summer, Alexa reportedly wasn't enough to ignore unlocking commands, so you can't shout through the front door, "Alexa, unlock the house!"

For all this magic, our favorite new lock convenience is the tap-to-trigger feature on the much-improved Kwikset Kero Touch-to-Open Smart Lock released last summer. Like the August, the Keros are Bluetooth to identify smartphones with virtual keys close at hand, but the Kero can't identify users remotely because you have to tap the lock physically to make it release or lock. The Kero cleverly senses which side of the door you are on to further reduce automatic entry, and can also work with physical key fobs and standard Kwikset keys. Installation requires replacing the existing dead bolt, but it's almost as easy as setting up the August. Kwikset's touch-screen-driven Provo offers integration with the wireless security upgrades of Apple HomeKit. When buying, take care to specify the "2nd Generation" Kero, which has better all-metal internals in a more compact package.

You will have to decide how you like the look of Kero. While August is available on the outside of your home, the Kero Touch-to-Open that we like to make homes as unobtrusive as bright LED ring that spins blue to confirm locking and unlocking (or red to report an error), and will fit some traditional.

Thinning of connected smart locks has come a long way in looks, security, and practical utility, and will delight home-tech enthusiasts. Know, though, that any system relying on the wireless Bluetooth standard will hit hiccups. We're almost ready to unlock the future. ■



1) iLocks XP

This lower-tech keypad lock can also be controlled via a color-style wireless remote frequency (off) keychain remote. Taster and there about enter with custom PIN codes or with 99 keychain remotes. See the larger X Series line for sleeker styles. It also pairs with LockCommand home systems. **Available in Samsung, Google, iOS/Android smartphone control through the iLocks app.** From \$335. ilocks.com



2) Yale Assure Lock with BlueLink

Connected smart lock features and Yale Assure app for iOS/Android. Add a Yale HomeKit module to make this Yale smart lock part of a HomeKit smart home network or allow updates that work with the standards including Z-Wave (Bosch SmartThings), ZigBee, and Apple HomeKit. From \$299. yale.com



3) August Smart Lock (HomeKit Enabled)

Add connected Apple-friendly access to your existing dead bolt: replacing the inside plate and lever but leaving the exterior of the door unchanged. Great for those who don't want the outside of the house to say "smart." Add an ecosystem: include Doorbell Cam, Keypad, and August Connect. An innovative update. From \$229. august.com



4) Kwikset Kero Touch-to-Open Smart Lock

Kwikset Knows better touch to open keyless entry and has a sleek iOS/Android app for controlling access with virtual eKeys. Also opens with Kero fob and standard Kwikset keys. Monitor and manage access via the Internet with Kwikset Provo. Kero Convert works without existing smartlock. Kwikset Provo works with Apple HomeKit. From \$229. kwikset.com



5) Poly Control Deadlock V3

Get connected smart lock features with a compact dead bolt with distinctive Euro design. Built controls in addition to Bluetooth connectivity to nearby phones and wireless to Z-Wave (Bosch SmartThings) smart home hubs. The Dynamic model provides no keys step-by-step instructions for Airbnb/short-term temporary rental keys for guests. \$200. dynamick.com



6) Schlage Sense Smart Deadbolt

The Schlage Sense smart deadbolt (SL200) offers its angle with keyless entry and temporary access via a programmable electronic keypad. The fence Schlage Sense products include steel built-in alarm and compatibility with Apple HomeKit. The Schlage Connect Touchscreen Deadbolt offers a contact with Schlage Sense (The app and other Z-Wave hubs). From \$229. schlage.com

Updating a vintage cottage

A crisper color palette and a handful of design upgrades refresh an 1889 Spanish Revival–influenced home

BY KATE WOOD • ILLUSTRATION BY BRAYGATE, INC.



"Keeping the red concrete tile roof and the white ends decorative adding gives the home more charm."

FIRST-TIME home owner Jess Smith takes pride in the renovations she's completed inside her 128-year-old home in Murray, Utah. But she's at a loss when it comes to the exterior. "I love the red concrete tile roof," she says, "but the rest is so—yuck." So we turned to Salt Lake City firm Lloyd Architects for help. The team would remove the trees crowding the facade, opening up space for a small porch with a widehouse floor salvaged from the carry-overs. "The porch is simple and so clean-lined, so it doesn't compete with the existing roof," says designer Michael Zeller. Overlaying the picture window with a grid allows the porch's hefty columns and draws the eye to the arched siding on the front-facing side end. A gray and white color scheme (and no more oak carcases!) pulls it together, with just a hint of pink. Jess says, "I love every single bit of it!"



landscaping

Native plants require less water and spray-dried mulch keeps flowers looking lush. Palmer's SmartScape, \$21 for a 5-inch pot. High countrygardens.com



entry sconce

A single light fixture with a white ceramic base. The ceramic base is a strong contrast. Hinkley Model 23147. High house Outdoor Wall Light \$229. lighthouse.com



paint

She selected neutral colors to get the red tile roof. Benjamin Moore's High Performance White (201), and Oxford Green (201), and Oxford Green (201). From \$94 per gallon. benjamin.com



door

Adding a porch means raising the floor level, so they not only update the style, but also the quality of the exterior. TruStone FLECO. From \$304. trustone.com

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My remodel from hell

It may look nice now, but getting there wasn't pretty BY GORDON BAUGMAN

IT'S TRUE what they say about childhood renovations: Once you see the final product, you fall in love, and all memory of pain and prolonged labor evaporates.

Still, I have no problem remembering the moment I wanted to punch out our general contractor, "Boss," a smooth-talking promiscuous who had found me after I registered at a well-known referral agency and got glibbed by a less savvy one (heather is willing to say how this happened). "Six weeks, max," he promised.

My husband, Irwin, and I, as longtime owners of a Manhattan apartment, are not exactly remodel novices, never mind newbies. Yet our simple bath redo nearly led us to the easeliest—by way of divorce court.

It was the tile store that drove us apart. A shoddy fire and leaching of Irwin's handpicked contractor drove us back together.

A smooth Russian transplant to Brooklyn, "Sergei" will forever be remembered for leveling off queries about our rumored strong needs ("and if we could just have a custom niche for our elvish toothbrushes...") while wildly raising another estimate ("I buff to go," he announced ominously, tucking our deposit into his wallet. "Need to collect some money.")

He never did build our vanity—a long loop with some bigger levers—his Sergei, if you are avoiding that, really, no problem, keep the deposit.

The tile store, in answer to a French cathedral, provided a different kind of challenge. I had entered with a mass of the maverick 1920s subway tile I grew up with. Up and down the aisle we went, passing to check out the

1. MOOD ENHANCER

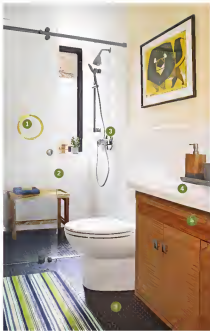
This serene bird helped drive the decor while performing the decor. Boredom didn't mean I couldn't be a night owl. I stayed with the vintage bird print which I discovered around the time of Woodstock.

2. SHUFFLE RIGHT IN

We used the back and most of a barista cart to shower. He can tell us how heavy those chairs are or how hard it is to make them disappear. The floor panned the top. Top. See if a marble rolls toward the door before you padlock the

3. CLIMATE CONTROLS

Our old tile had one of I have heard said cracker style tiles that controls both shower temperature and volume. We spring for a thermostat valve that allows you to pre-set the temperature. Always controls the flow. Sweet!



4. SPLASH HAPPY

A half-inch enamel shower pan was a disaster. I had a shower pan made by a local tile setter. It was a disaster. I had a shower pan made by a local tile setter. It was a disaster. I had a shower pan made by a local tile setter. It was a disaster.

5. HXED

Our first eyes on this soft gray boxed vanity were... I had a shower pan made by a local tile setter. It was a disaster. I had a shower pan made by a local tile setter. It was a disaster.

6. DRY TOUCH

Having the floating vanity was a challenge. To accommodate the drainage we had to have the tile setter raise the sub floor adding a matching oak collar. By then the GC was long gone.

REQUIRED READING

Read up on how to avoid the pitfalls of remodeling. I had a shower pan made by a local tile setter. It was a disaster. I had a shower pan made by a local tile setter. It was a disaster.

last subway tile installation, of which there are now approximately 12 dozen. "Look at this," I said and before a shower in leveled rectangles with an awful crackle glass. "It says Aquaguard White, but isn't this color closer to Mosaic White? I wonder if Steel Gray grout would go better with it, or it'd be nicer with Atlantic Sea."

Irwin, looking rather stony faced, I had a different vision: to get out of there as fast as possible. A chance to squander its remaining time on earth studying the fine points of wall tile, not to mention the selection of marble for the floor. I found one mile west. He'd rather chase himself—no, rather, me.

The last time we had renovated a bath, we were so young and careless that we closed our eyes and ordered every week opened accounts (new "Bib"). We spent not a minute contemplating how high the tile should go on the wall or how wide the grout lines should be, two issues you could spend a lifetime debating these days. Leave the tile setter make all the decisions, and a good thing, too. He was good for me, we later learned, because he was on work release from prison.

So you think you're not and survived it all and you finally know what you're doing, but it's more like you know too much, a lesson I learned while surfing the Web for a vanity we could buy online.

The Web? That homepage—pardon the pun—was like for the modern. I was in a mood to open, and one squaring a dozen tiles to learn each house as the number of items product codes. In the day, I'm happy closed around the Web by our vanity whose substandard sink close door compelled me to finger put long enough to suggest a serious relationship.

When I finally staggered into the shower, I learned our standard-size vanity would serve, with the next day isn't that how it's supposed to work? It might have been faster to sign up for a

woodworking class and make myself

Our last bath redo, having already stretched from three weeks to three months, now became the domestic crew's plaything. On a typical day, a lone worker would show up at noon, hammer away for an hour or so, then leave for a cigarette break—back at home.

Paul came to shove when the vanity finally arrived and the crew leader tried to hang it, only to realize he'd positioned the water pipe so low the sink top would have to be at thigh level. After a lot of energetic sawing and twisting, he managed to get the vanity onto the wall—with glue. Then he left for a cigarette break.

As we moved into the half-finished room and bid adieu to our mid-order wallboard, we couldn't help noticing that it was not only well above waist level but also crooked.

In telling you this long New York story because it has a happy ending, Irwin manfully paid off the Russians. "It's only money," he informed me ("oops!" I said and took charge, asked by a Singaporean handyman he had met at the hardware store. A natural move—Irwin had spent his formative years in Saigon—they tried the vanity off the wall and MacGyvered a fix.

When day, everything was, if not perfect, then close enough, and when we gazed at the sink top floating at perfect height over our marble bath, it's fine, it was indeed like falling in love. We keep going in there to admire our baby.

Not that this has stopped me from clicking on ads for grab bars and towel warmers. It's like saying on search engines after you've found a husband," one friend pointed out.

And who knows, we may need another vanity some day, should we decide to remake our guest bath, which is, come to think of it, looking rather dated. Consider all we've learned. We couldn't possibly make the same mistakes again—right? ■



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BY KATE WOOD • PHOTOGRAPHY BY BURCH AVELAR

They will be the following
pages. 13 of our favorites



3» eastlake
 made in japan
 Made of Solid brass with
 a powder finish
 Size: 3 1/2" W x 5 1/2" H
 Highlights: The Indeed
 border recalls this late
 Victorian-era style. \$29
luncheonware.com



4> greek revival

3000LUS HARDWARE
Made of metal with an oil rubbed bronze finish
Size: 3 1/2" x 5 1/2"
Highlights: Cool by its simplicity, egg-and-dart motifs come back in the mid-19th century. \$3.88
3000lushardware.com



5> arts & crafts

LEDGIN
Made of solid metal with an antique finish
Size: 2 1/2" W x 4 1/2" H
Highlights: A lot of shine helps play up the matched-and-mismatched look of this Craftsman-inspired style. \$28
sandykay.com



6> art deco

ANDRELLA
Made of Cast metal with an antique finish
Size: 2 1/2" W x 4 1/2" H
Highlights: The finish enhances the stepped border of this sleek switch plate. \$7.25
wallypaulonline.com



7> prairie

HISTORIC HOUSEPARTS
Made of Copper-plated forged brass with an oil rubbed bronze finish
Size: 2 1/2" W x 4 1/2" H
Highlights: The finish enhances the stepped border of this sleek switch plate. \$7.25
wallypaulonline.com



8> early classical

3000LUS HARDWARE
Made of brass with an antique finish
Size: 2 1/2" W x 4 1/2" H
Highlights: A lot of shine helps play up the matched-and-mismatched look of this Craftsman-inspired style. \$28
sandykay.com



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9> queen anne

3000LUS HARDWARE
Made of iron with a white-painted finish
Size: 2 1/2" W x 4 1/2" H
Highlights: This switch plate recalls the look of painted iron. \$3.88
3000lushardware.com



10> spanish revival

ANDRELLA
Made of Bronze with a copper finish
Size: 2 1/2" W x 4 1/2" H
Highlights: Elaborate details suggest Spanish style. \$123
wallypaulonline.com



11> colonial

BRONZE
Made of The-die metal with a white-painted finish
Size: 2 1/2" W x 4 1/2" H
Highlights: Principally used in the 18th century. \$7.25
3000lushardware.com



12> gothic

ARTIFACT
Made of Metal with a white-painted finish
Size: 2 1/2" W x 4 1/2" H
Highlights: This switch plate's design is traditionally gothic. \$123
3000lushardware.com



13> cottage

ARTIFACT
Made of Wood with a white-painted finish
Size: 2 1/2" W x 4 1/2" H
Highlights: Framed in solid wood. \$123
3000lushardware.com

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Make an end-grain cutting board

Tom Silva, with help from Kevin O'Connor, transforms a single piece of scrap pine into a handsome, useful butcher block

BY THOMAS RAHER + PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANTHONY TELLI



A WORKING SHOP GENERATES lots of scrap wood, none of which is usually too small and common for anything except kindling. But occasionally, a piece calls out for special attention, like the slab of salvaged heart pine left over from a bench that Tom and Kevin had built earlier. Heart pine is the heartwood of longleaf pine, a tree prized for its strength, rich color, and hardness. Sadly, overharvesting has driven the species to near extinction; the wood that is available today comes from lumber pulled out of old buildings or log skidded from a tree.

Tom's plan was to slice the rough-sawn scrap into strips and assemble them into a cutting board with the wood grain running vertically. This creates an attractive mosaic that also serves a practical purpose. "On edge-grain cutting boards, every knife edge slices," Tom says. "But when a knife blade hits end grain, the fibers separate. The board is end-grained and the blade stays sharp." Even better, the joint's high arched crown makes it naturally antibacterial.

You can pay \$100 or more for a similar end-grain cutting board. Or spend a few responsible hours in the shop building your own one-of-a-kind piece. If that sounds like an appealing use of your time, just follow the steps on the next two pages.

Ready for carving
Above: This Old House contractor Tom Silva (left) and TOH host Kevin O'Connor achieve their butcher-block-cutting board, a 30-by-12-by-2-inch slab made from a plank of longleaf pine. "As we worked on this project, the wood's lovely aroma filled the entire shop," Kevin says.

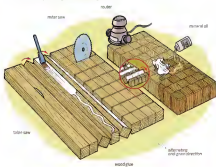


TABLE 5

- benchtop option
- killing sample and other ones
- table saw
- acid trough
- bar clamps
- circular saw with edge guide
- router
- 1/2 inch round over bit with clearing
- 1/4 inch round bit with clearing
- variable orbit sander

MATERIALS

- one scrap piece of wood, about 36 inches long by 12 inches wide by 2 inches thick
- Type II wood glue
- 2x4 scraps
- 100- and 220-grit sandpaper
- mineral oil and rags

RESULTS

Watch Tim and Kym
mess the loudboard
at www.800house.com/
bushy-bushy

STEP-BY-STEP

End-grain cutting board



1) Flank the right wing This 2-inch-thick plank affixed along lengthwise—about 3 feet long and 2 feet wide—provides all the wood needed for this project. Run it through a planer to flatten both sides. Then use a jointer saw to crosscut it into two equal pieces and to square up the ends.



2) Slip into strips: Use a table saw to trim the weathered wood from either side of each board. Next, rip the boards into strips that are the same thickness on all four sides, as shown. A patch block is key here: finger's safe



3) Alternate the grain. Place five strips on a workbench and divide them into two groups. Turn each strip so that the direction of the end grain varies from one strip to the next. This ensures that the finished block won't cup or split when the wood gets wet and dries out.

STEP BY STEP
CONTINUED
(cont'd p. 60)

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STEP-BY-STEP



4) Glue. Set aside one strip in each group and turn the others a quarter turn to interlock. Apply and spread the glue on the board strips. (This is done first with an angled brush with a stick. Rotate each strip back a quarter turn then place each set-aside strip against the exposed glue on one side of each assembly.)



5) Clamp, then cut. Clamp the assembled strips into two panels, use a string to wedge up any gaps that have come out. When the glue is dry in an hour or so, clamp up top to the miter saw table 2 inches from the blade. Then the panel ends. But as you separate the stop, so you cut each panel into identical 5-in.-wide strips.



6) Stagger the strips. Place all the strips so the end grain faces up. Shift each row side ways so that the glue joints on each strip are offset from the ones on the neighboring strips. Use the same gluing technique as in Step 4 to make a single panel and glue it to the miter saw table. Clamp the panel end 2 in. for about an hour.

TIPS

Choosing a thickness planer.
• Metal chuck. Before you start, make sure the benefit you're planning has no embedded nails. They can ruin planer knives.

• Thin and first. If the grain on the board's side has a slope, feed the board into the planer beginning with the end that the grain slopes downward. Feeding it the other way may tear the surface rather than smooth it.

• They rub down. If the board's support frame side in side, place the concave side against the planer table and flatten the convex side first. Then plane the concave side.

• Just a little at a time. Set the planer depth to remove only about 1/8 inch of wood at a time. This enables the planer blades to spin at a high rate for a smoother surface.



7) Trim the edges, plane the faces. Use a router bit and edge guide to trim one side square to the ends. Then the other side with a table saw. Now run the board through the planer to smooth out the faces. The 2-in. prevents the ends from dropping. After planing, ease them off with the router use.



8) Round the edges. Using a hand plane, round over each vertical corner, then rout a cove in the board's top and bottom edges, as shown. The cove makes the board easier to pick up. Follow the oil sides with a random orbit sander, starting with 80-grit sandpaper and finishing with 380-grit.



9) Coat with oil. Rub mineral oil into every side of the board. After 20 minutes, wipe off any excess, reapply wet and wipe again. This food-grade oil warns so the wood's color, resists water, and protects against stains. Unlike a coating, it won't flake, crack, or peel. Reapply regularly.



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ask This Old House ▶

Q I'm tired of having to buy bagged soil every year for my potted plants. How can I make my own potting soil using the compost from my pile?

—BONNIE WILSON, SOUTH HAVEN, CT

51

tips, tricks, and
answers to
your home
improvement
questions

A Finished compost—dark, cool, and crumbly—makes a terrific potting soil, after some basic prep work. First, use 1/2-inch hardware cloth, like the one on this antique soil sifter, to screen out rocks and other big chunks. Then, blend 1 part screened compost with 1 part garden soil or coarse sand to ensure proper drainage. This mix doesn't need to be sterilized, as some suggest. That would kill the microbes that make compost beneficial.

—BOB ROOD,
TOP LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR

Our cast of veteran experts



TOM SILVA
General Contractor



NORM BISHEL
Master Carpenter



RICHARD TRETHEWEY
Painting and Finishing Expert



SCOTT COOK
Landscape Contractor



KEVIN CONBOY
Host

Our front porch railing is split and rotted in places, and has mildewed, peeling paint. We want to replace it but don't know where to begin. What would you suggest?

—MARGO WHITE, SUYDLE, VA

Tom Silva wants to get to the heart of the porch railing problem. Temporary bracing will hold the railing in place until the necessary level and vertical more than 4 inches above the porch deck to meet requirements.

SEE TOM SILVA AT **WORK** whenever you and your home are calling at thisishome.com/asking



TOM SILVA REPLIES: Time was, all porch railings were made of wood. But these days, you can choose from low-maintenance railing systems made of cellular PVC, cast stone, and composites, which look like painted wood if they don't have bulky caps where the rails join the posts. These synthetic materials are fairly expensive, however, and can't be castonard. That's why we used wood to build the unique Victorian-style railings at the Belmont TV project (left).

For these railings, we used Spanish cedar, but species like western red cedar and cypress are also good choices because they resist rot and don't swell or shrink much as the humidity changes. Paint holds up much better on such woods. Pressure-treated pine is not a good option because it twists and splits as it dries out.

Besides aesthetics, you'll have to consider building codes and aesthetics, which often work against each other. By code, the bottom of the railing can't be more than 4 inches above the porch deck, and the top of the railing has to be at least 36 inches above the porch deck to stop people from accidentally tripping over it. But so porch decks that are 30 inches or less above grade, the 36-inch minimum height requirement doesn't apply; you can also tie the railing any height you want as long as it meets it entirely.

The problem is, when you're sitting on your porch enjoying the breeze, that

What is it?

1. Knee pad
2. Bucket bumper
3. Gutter protector
4. Roof-rack guard

ASK THE EXPERTS
WHAT IS IT?



code-compliant 36-inch-high railing might spoil the view and leave you feeling like you're trapped in an adult-size baby crib. Before there were railing codes, most old porches had rails that were 30 inches or less above the deck. That height is easy to see over when seated and, to my eye, looks better from the street.

In Belmont, faced with the owners' desire for a traditional look and the building inspector's need to enforce the code, I devised this solution: I made the railings 32 inches high, then anchored a stainless-steel cable to the porch posts at the required 36-inch height. The cable is vertically movable from the street and doesn't interfere with the view of someone sitting on the porch.

Transplant a lilac
I need to move a large, well-established Mac bush. Any advice on how and when to transplant it?

—JACOBSON HOLTE, SEATTLE

SCOTT COOK REPLIES: I give the same basic advice to anyone who wants to transplant a shrub: Do the work in the spring, before the buds leaf out, or in the fall, after the leaves drop, and make sure the root ball is big enough for the space you're moving it to. If you're moving it to a new location, dig a hole in the ground. That means digging a root ball hole twice the diameter of the

root ball and 2 inches shallower than the ball's "shoulder," so that the existing root system isn't buried too deep.

Calculating the correct size of a root ball is simple. For a shrub with a single trunk, multiply the trunk's diameter by 16; for example, a 2-inch trunk needs a 32-inch-diameter root ball. But when a lilac has multiple stems, as common lilacs (Burrage red) tend to do, add together the diameters of all the trunks before multiplying by 16. A lilac with three stems—say, two 1-inchers and a 3-inch—will have a root ball 30 inches across. That would be one heavy shrub. If the ball is more than 2 feet wide, rent a nursery hand truck and have a strong helper or two to assist with the move.

Once your lilac is in its new location, give it plenty of water to encourage new roots to grow into the surrounding soil.

Sooty ghosts
We have black streaks of soot on the ceilings beneath the attic and on the exterior walls where the studs and joists touch the drywall. I have a propane furnace, no fireplace, and I don't burn candles. What's going on?

—RENEE CONRAD, BETHLEHEM, PA

RICHARD TRETHEWEY REPLIES: The soot is probably soot from that microscopic particles of soot are floating

HOME IMPROVEMENT
THE HOME DEPOT
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HOW TO HANG WALLPAPER LIKE A PRO



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11 thehouse.com/whatisit



through the air inside your house. In the winter, those particles tend to accumulate on the cooler window panes of exterior walls and ceilings where the trade wind joints conduct heat away from the inside. In time, the dust builds up enough to form a shadow in your room, a phenomenon known as ghosting.

You can get rid of the soot rules with a sponge and a multipurpose cleaner, but I'm actually more concerned about the source of your soot. Without candles or a fireplace to blame, the problem may very well be with your furnace or ducts.

Soot is a by-product of incomplete combustion. That's something that can be fixed by changing the size of the orifice in the furnace's burner or by replacing the propane tank's pressure regulator, among other solutions. The big question is, where is the soot coming from?

In the best-case scenario, you have dirty ducts that just need the attention of a duct-cleaning service. Worst case, there's a crack in the furnace's heat exchanger, a blocked flue, or leaking ducts that are allowing toxic and other combustion by-products to be blown into your house instead of going safely up the flue.

If it's the worst case, soot is the least

of your worries. Your furnace could also be filling your house with carbon monoxide, an odorless, highly toxic gas, and nitrogen oxides, which are severe lung irritants. That's why it's imperative that you call a qualified HVAC contractor—today!—to examine your system and make sure it's working properly. And if you have a propane-fired water heater, the contractor should also check that the flue gases are exhausting properly.

After you make that call, buy a battery-powered carbon monoxide detector, such as the Kidde C301RD (kiddes.com). It has a battery that lasts 10 years and a digital readout that lets you check if you're getting long-term exposure at levels too low to trigger the alarm. It's a useful feature because even low levels of carbon monoxide can be dangerous. Those detectors should be placed on every level of the house, including the basement. Keep them at least 15 feet from the furnace and other fuel-burning appliances, and away from bathrooms and direct sunlight. Fluorometers in temperature and humidity affect their accuracy.

Last warning, carbon monoxide killed

several people in my part of the country. Please take steps so that you don't end up being another sad statistic.

Paint or stain?

My cottage has many layers of opaque oil stain over wood siding, but I can't buy this stain anywhere anymore. Can I apply a latex paint over it, or should I use an opaque latex stain? Do I need a primer? The advice from the paint stores is all over the map.

—GARY BURR, VIA EMAIL

KEYWORD CORRECTION: Your question is a good one for painting contractor Rich O'Neil, owner of Masterwork Painting & Restoration, who has helped us on *Ask This Old House* TV projects. Here's what he has to say.

"The short answer is yes, you can apply either a 100 percent acrylic latex paint or solid-color stain over your existing oil stain, as long as the old coating is clean, dry, and sound—and well adhered to the siding. You will need to prime before applying paint but not when applying stain.

"Cleaning wood siding is a little forward. Just scrub it with a mix of oxygen bleach and dish soap to get rid of dirt, mildew, and chalky residues. Check whether a stain is well adhered to a bit more often. First, look for any signs of peeling and bubbling, where the stain has lost its grip on the wood. Those spots will have to be scraped and

sanded smooth. Next, is there a stain where the stain looks sound, its adhesion strong. Score the stain in a crosshatch pattern with a utility knife, then press masking tape against it. If the tape pulls off the old stain more than half the time, it can't be treated and will have to be removed. But if your house was built before 1979, test the old finish for lead before scraping or sanding. A positive test means you need to take proper precautions to keep you and your home from being contaminated.

"The decision about whether to use paint or opaque stain—commonly known as a solid-color stain—is up to you. Either one will work. The chief difference between them is the amount of solids they contain: pigments and resins, mostly. Paints have a higher percentage of those costly ingredients, solid-color stains have relatively less.

askHouse

Those extra pigments and resins increase the thickness, durability, and opacity of each coat of paint, and push up the price of each can. With cover groups, a two-coat paint job should last 10 to 15 years.

"Solid-color stains have advantages, too. Because their coats are relatively thin, they don't hide the texture of the wood underneath. They have a flat sheen that masks imperfections, and over the years, they are less likely to peel or build up a thick film on your siding the way that paint can. Also, solid-color stains are easy to apply—big marks over a big concern because of their flat sheen—and the prep time goes quickly, thanks to those thin layers. The downside: Solid-color stains should be refreshed more frequently than paint, about every eight years. Don't wait until it cracks and peels."

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Norm's tricks of the trade

Q My woodshop generates a lot of sawdust. Can I do something useful with it?

—LANCE HARTZOFF, HOWARD LAKE, MN

A Sawdust has many practical uses. It's very absorbent, so it's good for aeral bedding and for soaking up spills of latex paint (right). It's also a mild fire retardant in a way. (Don't put sawdust on spilled oil or oil-based paints. It could spontaneously combust.) Besides, sawdust improves traction on icy walkways, adds carbon to compost piles, and works as mulch, so long as it's not more than a few inches thick. Avoid doing these things with sawdust from pressure-treated wood, however, because it's loaded with toxic chemicals.



PHOTO: JAMES H. HARRIS/ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

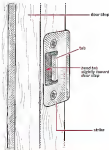
Q We love to sleep with the windows open, but it's hard to do so because the bedroom door rattles loudly if there's any breeze. How can we stop it? It's driving us nuts!

—STEVE DUNLAP, WILSON, VA

A The culprit here is the strike, the metal piece mounted on the door jamb. The strike captures the latch when the door is closed and holds the door tight against the stop. At least, it's supposed to. Your strike is a little too far away from the stop, and that gives the latch room to rattle inside.

Correcting this everywhere is easy if the strike has a tab, like the one at right. Just take the strike off the jamb, grip it with an adjustable wrench, and use another wrench to bend the tab up slightly. (You can ruin the finish.) It's better to make small adjustments; otherwise, you risk breaking off the tab. Reattach the strike and see if that fixes the problem.

If the strike has no tab, simply reposition the strike so it's closer to the stop. ■



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Nothing makes you appreciate a kitchen like living without one for a while. The payoff on any renovation: all the good times that are going to happen in everyone's favorite room.



PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS



This Old House: The Arlington Project

MODERN FAMILY

An Arts and Crafts-style house emerges with its 1909 spirit intact, plus better-functioning new gathering spaces for today

By **Jill Connors**
Photographs by **Anthony Tieuli**
Styling by **Caroline Woodward**

On a recent afternoon, as Nick and Emily Delton's extended family gathered at their home, the younger ones all fell toward running laps around the first floor—making a loop from kitchen to dining room to front foyer to living room, and back through the kitchen, to bed, the family Newfoundlander, dogs undisturbed on the family-room hearth, and the adults clustered around the kitchen island, where they could easily keep an eye on the action. “This would never have been possible before,” says Emily, recalling their daughter Sarah’s last at-home birthday party, when guests had to leave up single file as he served in the busy kitchen then make their way into the dining room. “Now the spaces make sense,” she says. “There’s room for everyone.”

This was no case of mere renovation. After a decade of house hunting, the Deltons bought and lived in this Arlington, Massachusetts, home for three more years before moving out last April when *This Old House* general contractor Tom Silva and



ABOVE: Nick and Emily Delton seated at the new kitchen table with their 5-year-old daughter Sarah.

OPPOSITE: A shed I beam-clawed for wine-againistous living room addition. Ceiling coffers and natural wood floors enhance the house's Arts and Crafts style. The new kitchen is expansive and light-filled, with a large island and a breakfast bar. The family room got a new fireplace, walls of windows, and a fireplace.

THIS OLD HOUSE
GENERAL CONTRACTOR: Tom Silva
DESIGNER: Greg Gable
ARCHITECT: Michael
Kobayashi
INTERIOR DESIGNER: Caroline Woodward
PAINTER: John J. Delton
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT: Michael
Kobayashi
PLANTING: Michael
Kobayashi
FURNITURE: Michael
Kobayashi
LIGHTING: Michael
Kobayashi
CLOTHING: Michael
Kobayashi
JEWELRY: Michael
Kobayashi
SHOES: Michael
Kobayashi
ACCESSORIES: Michael
Kobayashi



his crew could begin reworking the 1909 house. It was clearly important for the Deltons to ensure that the end result would blend seamlessly—from gabled roofline to outdoor spaces to interior architectural details—with the house's original Arts and Crafts style. "The idea was to honor the traditional craftsmanship of this house, but give the Deltons the spaces they needed," says *The Old House* master carpenter Norm Abner.

The eight-month renovation added a multi-room effort: a cramped 1960s galley kitchen, non-existent gathering space, a decker side deck, an awkward mudroom entry, a walled-off living room that impeded circulation, the lack of a master bath, a deteriorating roof, dead-end beyond-repair single siding, a terrific front-entry porch, and an old heating system that cost a fortune to run.

By adding an 899-square-foot, three-story addition in the rear was key to the semi-completed modernization, making way for a large open-plan kitchen leading to a window-lined family room on the first floor,

ABOVE: The 36-by-22-foot family room features a vaulted ceiling, recessed lighting, and a built-in island. The fireplace is a perfect stone mantel is topped with a TV cabinet.

RIGHT: The 1909 house is ready for another 100 years with new cedar shingle siding, PVC trim "spoke shutters" in the grille work, and a dramatic new entry porch.

TOP PAGE: Woodwright Remodel Company Inc. (www.woodwrightremodel.com) designed and built the addition. Lead by owner architect Norm Abner, the team includes Michael Bore & Son Builders, Michael Bore, and Michael Bore. The team also includes Michael Bore, Michael Bore, and Michael Bore.



a master bath on the second floor, and a light-filled crafts and play space on the third floor.

From Tom's point of view, the success of the addition rested on one thing: support. A 28-foot-long, 18-inch-high, 1,000-pound steel I-beam replaced the original rear wall. "Steel gave us the openness of



ABOVE: New MDF wall paneling in a grid pattern adds classic Arts and Crafts scripter along the dining room. Original white oak floors were stained and finished with a clear coat for a lighter look. The built-in island is clear coat for a lighter look. The built-in island is clear coat for a lighter look.

LEFT: New floor-to-ceiling railings in the kitchen and family room provide a subtle complement to the original architecture.

having a family room that's all windows with a floor plan open to the kitchen," Tom says. The addition's footprint is larger on the first floor—designed with a single-story family room that extends 24 feet into the backyard to accommodate the vaulted ceiling focal point for the main gathering area, as well as a new fireplace and chimney.

Throughout the finished house, the interior design merges traditional craftsmanship by using period materials and period details. "We wanted the architecture to be the standout focus, and let the interiors provide a subtle complement with several other tones," says interior designer Jill Goldberg.

As in any renovation, not everything went as originally planned. Though the Deltons had envisioned lightening up the dark living room by painting the period woodwork white, they changed their minds midproject when painting contractor Mauro Henrique did some experimenting. After stripping one section of the living room's original



RIGHT: The kitchen island is a perfect stone mantel is topped with a TV cabinet. The built-in island is clear coat for a lighter look. The built-in island is clear coat for a lighter look.



where oak was missing—which had grown quite dark over the years—he asked Emily and Goldberg to take a look. It was an idea moment, confirmation that the woodwork was too beautiful to cover up. “Our concern from dry oak, when we stepped in the house, was that the front rooms felt dark,” Emily says. “Even though white paint would have been effective in lightening them up, pointing over the oak never felt quite right.”

Henrique stripped not only the living room walls but the ceiling coffers and crown molding, too, cleaning them with a caustic alkali water-based polyurethane to preserve their lighter look. He worked similar magic with the original flooring—white oak on the first floor and hick on the second—sanding the boards and sealing them with two coats of a self-sealing water-based clear finish that gives the look of bare wood. “Having these wood surfaces restored instead of covered up is a great solution,” Kate says. “It’s worth the extra effort in a house like this one.”

The biggest transformation, however, is unquestionably the addition of the kitchen and family

parlor. The living room is original white oak woodwork, ceiling coffers, and crown molding—which had the longest over time—were stripped and given a matte clear coat for a lighter look. Double-pane stainless-steel wood windows boost energy efficiency.

ABOVE: Danforth's bedroom walls are lacquer-painted with a base coat of clay paint, followed by multiple layers of diluted acrylic paint for a watercolor effect.

rooms—the heart of the house for the Eldons today and the area that best shows how the moonstone houses the house's Arts and Crafts style while also possessing more functional new spaces.

For the kitchen, designer Heather Knauff combined hand-painted white-pewter cabinets with a waterwashed oak island. She chose white oak for the island and for a built-in in the adjoining family room as a nod to the house's original woodwork, but with a twist. The cut of the oak is rift-sawn (rather than quarter-sawn) for a clean-lined, tight grain, and the custom finish—a water-based dye sealed with a five-coat urethane—gives it a delicately bleached look in keeping with the lighter, more contemporary palette.

The kitchen island is designed to support a family who enjoys cooking as entertainment. A marble-topped center island with pliers of prep-topper runs parallel to a working wall of cabinets, with double ovens and a gas cooktop; the latter crowned with a sleek pair of brass-covered new hood. There's even a lower section of the island that functions as a baking center for Sarah's. “All these details really

THIS PLACE
 BRICK HOME COLLETON, IOWA
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 BY EMILY AND GOLDBERG
 IN 2010. PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFFREY
 L. BROWN. STYLING BY JESSICA
 L. BROWN. INTERIOR DESIGN
 BY HEATHER KNAUFF.
 PAINT BY DANIEL BROWN.
 HARDWARE BY JEFFREY L. BROWN.
 FURNITURE BY JEFFREY L. BROWN.

before + after

Well Done

To-the-ceiling cabinets, stacks of drawers, and a better appliance layout serve up modern function, with a dash of period flair

BY NINA NALINI | PHOTOGRAPHS BY BURT STRICKLAND
PRODUCED BY TERRA LEUNG | STYLING BY ANN EDGARTON

Run a successful restaurant for 47 years, and you learn what makes a kitchen work. So when Harvey and Diana Kloosel, owners of a 230-seat steak house in Madison, Wis., were ready to remodel their home cook space, they drew on their pro experience. "We wanted easier access to the dining room, and an island where we could prep, cook, serve, and eat," Harvey says. The leaders demanded a style upgrade, too—this time, one that truly suited the Kloosels' 1903 Queen Anne.

The couple worked with the existing footprint by first demolishing a walk-in pantry. That allowed a wide open connection to the dining room and revealed a double-height window that bathes the room in light. They inserted an awkward, bi-level island with a traffic-stopping cutout for one countertop height, all one level, with an induction cooktop—now they can work at the island without getting in each other's way. Designer Sarah Stacey suggested adding bright cabinetry and a pull-out pantry, so the Kloosels don't miss their walk-in one bit. A soft-green color palette and stained woodwork create just the right old-house look. "Now the kitchen feels open, airy, comfortable, and bright," Diana says. "We love it!"

BEFORE Though sturdy, the island and cabinets were dark and void of detail, leaving a lot of work to be done. The space also needed far, uncluttered prep surfaces.

AFTER New moves to bi-level island, the Kloosels love their bright look, plus the simple storage in ceiling-high upper with back-saving, lower drawers.



BEFORE



The pull-down island and the upper sink are both pulled pretty and practical.

Corner store

Tired of searching for items tugging in the back of lower cabinets, the Klosses replaced them all with drawers. The corner units are a space-saving efficient solution, utilizing every inch of storage cabinet space. "They're ideal for towels, bags, and anything overall. It's fast!" Dene says. The sleek white marble counters offer a clean, bright look. Cabinet paint: Sherwin-Williams's Glory Scape. Pulls: Amerock.



Another restaurant, Honeycrisp, changed the kitchen while Dene oversaw the front of the house.

The kitchen gets lots of use, so Dene and the kids often go right back here to work.

Sunny seating

The window seat is a favorite hangout for the couple's five grandkids—and the Klosses appreciate being able to keep an eye on them when cooking. Under seat storage is available for guests' convenience. The built-in bench can hold up after themselves when snack time comes. Wallpaper: Williams-Sonoma's Paperport.

**Fan favorite**

Fans on opposite sides of the kitchen island hold floral wallpaper and welcome them. The fans also help cool the room while the oven and cooktop are cranking. Fan: Matthews Fan Company.

ANOTHER FIVE'S COOK SPACE
Check out an NYC culinary star's home kitchen at theofficemag.com/pre-kitchen

**Marbled marvel**

Just nine inches smaller than its predecessor, the new island is all practical. At 30 1/2 inches high, it's more comfortable to sit and stand at, and the overhang makes a perfect breakfast spot. The island's marble countertop is a hard-wearing material that resists scratching and staining. Pendant lights: Regeneration.

Cooler cooking

Moving the oven out of the island allows for better circulation. The induction cooking heats safely—and conveniently. Dene says, "It cooks down quickly, so we don't have to worry about the grandkids getting burned. It's so easy to use for, and the surface can be used as a serving station." Cooktop: Jenn Air.

before

The walk-in pantry had a window and cramped the entry to the dining room.

**after**

Removing the pantry and moving the oven boost storage and circulation.

1. To create a desk to make room for stacked wall pots topped with a microwave. A pull-out pantry cabinet with storage sits beside them.
2. Gutted the pantry to allow for a window opening to the dining room and a built-in bench seat. Beneath the new expansion window.



3. Relocated the dishwasher to the other side of the sink to fit in a larger refrigerator.
4. Replaced a tile floor with a new tile floor. A built-in counter top and a built-in bench seat.
5. Tucked a day bar into a new design into a corner of the kitchen to fit the entry hall.



Local experts restored the stained glass windows and helped create a formal table and used a gray, black, and white green for each window's pattern. The table is made of wood and has a glass top. The table is made of wood and has a glass top. The table is made of wood and has a glass top.

TOH TV: The Detroit House

Ready for Prime Time

Nine months after it went up for auction, an abandoned 1939 house makes a stunning comeback

By Deborah Baldwin

Photographs by Nathan Kirkman Styling by Diane Ewing



PHOTOGRAPHS
BY NATHAN KIRKMAN
STYLING BY DIANE EWING
DESIGN BY DEBORAH BALDWIN

DESIGN BY DEBORAH BALDWIN
STYLING BY DIANE EWING
PHOTOGRAPHS BY NATHAN KIRKMAN
DESIGN BY DEBORAH BALDWIN



"People came out of the woodwork to offer their time and services. We couldn't have crossed the finish line without them."

—Kevin O'Connor, TQH TV host

ONE GREAT HUMAN BEING led to another—and another, until a crowd half of Detroit's mass, hard-working people had descended on a single house: *Fixers, plasterers, carpenters, you name 'em*. And all of them talk about how much they enjoyed getting to know the homeowners, Frank and Tamiko Polk, not to mention how gratifying it was to contribute to the salvaging of a historical house. "They are the most down-to-earth people," says house painter Brian Conroy, who was paid, he jokes, "a shawarma sandwich." Don't you wish every renovation went like this?

When last we checked in on the Polks ("Here to Stay," March/April), the renovation was at full speed, janked along in no small way by the well-oiled machine known as *The Old House* TV. But if the homeowners had a genuine to-do list—they were renovating a 1,700-square-foot 1919 house in such bad shape the city practically gave it to them—the TV crew's schedule was tight, and its mission precise: to produce 18 discrete how-it's-done episodes while juggling a second renovation, in Arlington, Massachusetts (see page 78).

This was the TV crew's first foray into the Motor City, and as word got around, the doorbell kept ringing—in a dining-by-hoping-to-get-a-ride-and-a-ride sign of a familiar face. *Actual*ly, though the doorbell, the house didn't even have a furnace. There had been it.

Which explains why storage areas in the foyer are



diminished, Frank and Tamiko Polk, with their son, Dennis Polk, one of the crew members.

BELOW: The homeowners opened up their kitchen and warmed it with wood-burn tiles with rustic charm.

OPPOSITE: The business side of the renovation: storage, packed, freeing up space for loved, pleasing home cook Frank.



dry gave the homeowners pause. "We were working upstairs when we heard something," Tamiko recalls. "It looked down and saw that big guy standing there"—big, bearded, and bristling with concern.

Luckily, he wasn't coming for the copper pipes. Throwing out a hand, Josh Engle introduced himself as a longtime general contractor who'd grown up in Detroit. As a kid, he had been glad to PMS—"we didn't have cable," he explains—and he was anxious to meet his new upstairs show roomies.

He could see they'd been busy, even if the crew was far from over. *The Old House* plumbing and heating expert Richard Trethewey had taken a sledgehammer to the upstairs bath, landscape contractor Roger Cook was digging trenches for dry walls, and general contractor Wes Silva, with host Kevin O'Connor at his side, was

unmanned bearded roof repairs that had allowed



water to seep willy-nilly through the roof. A home-facting purport "was so filled with dust—it wasn't just a purport but a plague," Tom says. "Fixing the roof was the first thing that needed to get done, so there would be no more damage."

Looking around, Eagle could see that the homeowners had been off more than even his TV heroes could chase. So he started making calls.

Among the first to arrive was glass artist Ann Baines, who tackled the house's once-lovely leaded and stained-glass windows and doors. Along with fractured panes and corroded metal frames, she found "repar materials of unknown background." She laughs. "I've seen everything from chewing gum to concrete. They think, 'Oh, oh, oh, we'll build!'"

Once she pried the windows out, Baines started making calls herself, tracking down a friend who blazed

ABOVE Tracking down the right fixer-upper was no easy feat. Eagle found the right fixer-upper and Tom and Tasha needed only a few calls to get it all fixed. From left: a Tom's (right) and Tasha's (left) fixer-upper. From right: a Tom's (right) and Tasha's (left) fixer-upper.

and stripped away old paint and rust, welded metal where needed, and powder-coated the frames. Baines found her self applying 13 coats, cleaning up the embedded lead, air-curing, and peeling the windows. "When people look at decayed old windows, they say, 'Oh my god, I can't do this,' and they get replacement," Baines says. "To be able to restore them and save historical details, to me give up and say it can't be done, that's what keeps me going."

The homeowners bought in troops of their own, including close friends of Eagle's from his childhood and his days as a firefighter. And as demolition crew took down a wall to open up the kitchen, while Eagle, hoping to make good work of new flooring in the living room, quietly learned that his wife had made it's way under the porch, tracking off a carpenter and ironworker.

The job's heavy of volunteers dealt with water damage



above. A home-beacon awarded office space. Local floor refinishing strips away the original red oak floor boards and reveals the stone.

LEFT The first floor living room is a barrel-vaulted ceiling, a fireplace, and enough space. Tom's (left) to qualify as "the most care for home." From left: a Tom's (left) and Tasha's (right) fixer-upper. From right: a Tom's (left) and Tasha's (right) fixer-upper.



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Labor of Love

A nearly 300-year-old local landmark gets an artful restoration, with a smart expansion to serve a family of seven

By **Jennifer Blaise Kramer**
 Photographs by **Eric Roth**
 Produced by **Nicole Esposito-Polly**
 Styling by **Caroline Woodward**

ABOVE: The original circa-1750 Georgian-style house was restored with an appropriate cedar clapboard painted a warm tomato red gold.

Paint: Benjamin Moore's Chant Gold design and White Sands for shutters.

RIGHT: The "hall" was returned to its intended purpose, for dining, with new custom white pine boxes, paneled past colors, and a Colonial-style chandelier. *Chandeliers: Lucal; gilt leg: Fort Benjamin Moore; linen box (left) and Pinch Proportion Country (wooden).*





ABOVE A lighter, brighter foyer features narrow windows on either side and a modern door with salvaged period hardware. *Window: J&J Win Salvage; door hardware: Williamsburg Hardware; bench: Bryant Park Design; floor: Begon; mirror: A Cowi; rug: Blue Waterland; chair: Kippor (see p. 16)*

MORE PHOTOS
See additional images of the restored and expanded houses at thisoldhouse.com/tour or fox.com

was blowing snow into the house across the street." Fast forward six years, when the boys single-dog to three boys married Kate Krasner, who moved to watch her own son and daughter, drawing the house's flaws into stark relief. "When Greg told me it was the oldest house in Winchester, I believed it!" she says with a laugh. Nerve made the dead-on wood shingles, peeling paint, and plastic sheeting she covered some of the drab windows. The layout was outdated, too. The three-story, five-bedroom house had space, but it lacked a place for the blended family of seven to spend our days together, and the kitchen was tiny. Then there was the issue of seven people sharing the house's one and a half baths—or having to queue across the lawn to the garage shower when the others were occupied.

So before too long, the couple enlisted Cummings Architects and Woodell Builders to rethink the rambling historical home. Rather than cut up the original floor plan, which was largely intact, the team even added an addition with a new kitchen,

family room, and laundry, and a locker-lined mudroom in place of the old cook's space. They also drew up a back staircase—typical in larger New England homes—along with an extra bedroom and three much-needed bathroom upstairs.

The new family moved into a small rental down the street, which helped knit them together even more. Kate says, "I like to joke, if we could blend five kids through the whole moving and construction process, we can do anything together!"

While the shingled house bore plenty of history, inside much of its original charm had gone missing over the years. "We had to deal with the removal of the historical fabric of over 273 years," says lead architect Matt Cummings. Nearly all the finishes were gone, from the original clapboards to the flooring to the pine. Kate wanted a modern period look for the walls, so Cummings helped her decide which ones would work best together. Scraping layers of paint off the parlor mantel, they found fragments bearing its true color. Carefully, they replaced the



ABOVE Retaining its original character, the "parlor" is furnished simply, as it would have been almost 300 years ago. *Quartz: Bryant Park Design; screens: Lunart; painting: Peter Demaree; window: Section 8; rug: Green; Benign Green (see p. 16)*

weather-beaten shingles with traditional white cedar clapboards painted a welcoming gold. A new custom front door was fitted with salvaged hardware, including strap hinges, a box lock, and a distinctive key that looked so old, the architect says, "you'd think that it was 1747."

To lighten up the dark entry foyers, the team added era-appropriate oval windows on either side. "The house had lost what it once was—it wasn't a stately house, but it wasn't a working man's home either, it was something in between," Cummings says. "We wanted to find what it was in its heyday." They restored the original front staircase and restored the room on either side to their intended uses, with nooks to watch the "hall," for reading, and the "parlor," for serving by the fire. In their simple details and spare furnishings, these restored spaces have a modern simplicity. For each new and renovated room, they hung antique or hand-placed down instead of new standard-mat ones, adjusting door frames to opened and closing

various hardware. Decades back, two sizes of original flooring had been ripped up and replaced with strip maple. For a more authentic look, the team chose what would have been used in a 1700s home: knotty centers whose pine Plank is varying widths—10 to 16 inches downsize and 10 to 14 inches square out into the new boards will shrink, gap, and mellow with time.

Today, a guest's walk from the new bath, installed in a former breakfast alcove off the foyer hall, to the kitchen, they see as viable signs that they are moving from the original house to the modern addition. But winning the flooring necessary to build the new rooms proved a major challenge. As the team excavated in preparation for the new foundation, they ran into granite ledges. "Removing ledges is an expensive and time-consuming task for any construction project," says innovative Shores Currey. "But working within inches of an existing stone foundation nearly three centuries old required



careful planning and a delicate approach."

In order not to compromise the existing foundations, Cayer carefully broke down the rock over two days using a CAT excavator fitted with a hydraulic hammer. Once the ledge was low enough, he poured the footing to its new value, successfully carrying the new foundation to the old.

The master of the addition's first floor is the new farmhouse kitchen. White cabinets and heated black granite are warmed up by a backdrop of original handmade bricks that were used as insulation in a bedroom wall. For the island, the couple used a spill-proof, heat-work-proof surface and left it to love with a locally made top of reclaimed yellow pine. The kitchen connects to a casual living space, and French doors open up the space to a new patio and metal-roofed porch out back.

The new addition is all about mixing historical details with modern finishes. Up the new back staircase there are now four bedrooms, including the

ABOVE: The couple kept their original bedroom as it was, since it got the best natural light from the house. The update is the beautiful master bath adjacent to it. *On the right: Pat + Dwight Ford, Benji + Moore's Wedgwood days and Country Gray living*

OPPOSITE: Lately ceilings are a real estate thing in the double-height master bath. The steel-rod beams show off the old brick and the new glass, and create a new look. *Benji + Moore's Wedgwood days and Country Gray living*

original "bed chamber" (owner's bedroom), which is connected to a new double-height bath with clerestory windows. The movable vanity and claw-foot tub have a rustic feel, while the closet's barn door, made from wood salvaged during the construction, adds a rustic-contemporary contrast.

Today the renovated house is a perfect place for the whole clan to gather, piling on the living room sofas for movie night or playing with their newest addition, Bailey, a golden retriever puppy.

For Craig, the romance has returned, seeing the circa 1790 structure made weather right and whole again, and watching the family come together in the new open spaces or spill out into the backyard.

"It's hard to imagine that the work we did will be here in 100 years, but I'm sure the original owner felt the same way," Craig says. "In some respects, I feel more like the owner than the owner. This house has been around for a long time, but it still has a long time yet to go." ■



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saveHouse

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THE HISTORY A successful newspaper daily provided the wealth that George Coover needed to purchase this handsome home in 1903. Recognizing how the expansion of roads and railroads into Pennsylvania Dutch country had diversified the population, Coover became a partner in the *Myerstown Enterprise*. The town's first newspaper originated in English, the *Enterprise* quickly overtook the German-language competitor, and Coover was soon working with—and living in—the town's most prominent of houses.

WHY SAVE IT? Sitting on a corner lot on a street that's home to several historic properties, the former George Coover Mansion is a well-landscaped landmark. With several original front porches and symmetrical windows/bays on both sides, the circa 1880s house blends elements of the Second Empire and Queen Anne styles. Its brick exterior is now clad in vinyl siding, though it retains many original windows and woodwork details.

WHAT IT NEEDS Cosmetic upgrades plus new HVAC, electrical, and plumbing are needed, but finding a restoration-minded new owner comes first. The town currently owns the property, and bidding for its demolition contest is happening alongside a sealed bid process for a potential buyer. If someone willing and able to meet the town's criteria for restoration and renovation does not materialize by June 30, 2012, the Coover house will come down on July 5. It may stay but threatened with demolition three times, and unless it finds a new owner, this house's time will run out. —KATE WOOD

Lost
 chance
 to stop the
 wrecking
 ball!



1. The full-width front porch is a notable exterior feature.



2. Despite years of neglect, many original features like this window bay are intact.

3. The curved, arched entrance is an unusual detail.

4. A side view shows an entrance to the house which were likely added when the house served as a nursing home.



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